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Question1: As a third generation wheat farmer, how does the US Government expect us to be able to continue to operate our family farms when the Market Price we can sell our wheat for at \$3.00 per bushel and the cost to produce that bushell of wheat is over \$4.00. We are recieving the same price per bushell on the average for over 25 years! Our cost for fertilizer, fuel, insurance and equipment has increased 300% during that same time frame. It does not take a PHD in Business to understand this financial equation does not work. I am also a Commercial Loan officer at a Community Bank and each year we loose more and more farm families forced to sell out because they cannot pay their production loans. The 2002 Farm Bill has been a disaster to our local area and has lowered our program payments by 50%!! I have spread sheets from 100 of family farms showing the past 10 years decline in income recieved from grain sales and USDA program payments, yet we continue to produce high quality, better wheat for the consumer, yet get the same price we did in 1973!

My son would be the 4th generation to return to the farm and is unable to because we are barely able to keep the farm going under the current conditions. The annual expected income would be below the national poverty level at \$12,000 per year. How can we encourage him to work for us if he could not provide for his family?

Would you continue to work for the same hourly wage or salary your position was paid in 1973? Would you be able to afford the cost of living at todays rates based on that wage? That is what the Government is expecting the American Farmer to do. Most are only able to continue to get farm loans at the local banks because of USDA guaranteed loan programs or they have a spouse or they work off the farm full time. There must be dramatic changes to the new Farm Program or the Rural Communities in our area will further farmers to foreclosure and force them to sell off their heritage.

Think again, would you work for the same wage you worked for 25 years ago? Would you be able to cover all your living Costs? That is what farm families are forced to do, as they have no control over the Market Prices available for their crops.

We truly need your help to save the family farms and Rural Communities.

RoxAnn Sherwood
Wilbur, WA

Do you also realize if farmers were subsidized for wheat as the other countries do such as EU, Australia and Canada our price support per bushel would equate to \$9.00 per bushell!

Yet we are barely able to net \$3.00 per bushel for wheat at the current prices.

Question2: We must become a strong exporter in the world markets, How can we give so much money to Iraq and the lives of our young Soldiers, yet not require them to purchase our Wheat!!!The last year most Wheat sales to Iraq were from Australia!! This does not make any sense. We need to take care of our Country and rebuild our Rural Communities and increase the price support to our family farms (not corporate giants) instead of spending billions on a land and war not in our own country. We have an economic war going on in our Agriculture and it needs to be dealt with now!!Before we have no American grown food.

Question3: Farmers in our area would prefer to not receive subsidy but a fair market price for their crops. A price that would cover the production costs and labor. The producer or one paying the production costs should be receiving the farm program benefits, not the wayside landlord or corporate business owner!

Question4: Farmers continue to ensure our local farms are safe, clean and are active stewards of the land, we live on it, drink the water from beneath it and breathe the air above it!

Question5: NO!!we have lost an average of 20% of our farm families each year since the 2002 farm bill was put in place! We will again this year have more forced out of farming due to high production costs for fuel, fertilizer, insurance, equipment unable to repay the operating loans to cover those input costs because the price per bushel for the crop is at least \$1.00 per bushel below the cost to produce it. (the numbers include price support payments!)_ After 5 years of this same scenario, they are broke, the banks are tightening up and calling loans, they are forced to sell out or put the land in CRP contracts. This in turn devastates our local economy! Our school has lost enrollment is now under 100 students in the top 4 grades! Young families are moving to the cities for work as they cannot live on farm labor wages or farm income.

Question6: Separate from the pool of funds allocated to the producers! Same with the food stamp program, it should be removed for the farm producers program. Private corporations influence and pump money into new crop research, chemical research, etc. Let them fund the programs.

We raise the highest quality number 1 wheat in the nation, yet get no premium for it, the local elevators and crop brokers receive the premium. The farmer spends money raising quality wheat but gets nothing \$\$\$ in return for that cost input. There needs to be increased price support for the farmer who produces a quality product.